

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, July 4, 1886, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell Baddeck, C.B. July 4th, 1886 My dear Mrs. Bell:

Alec and I were very glad to receive your letter a day after our arrival here. It is with the exception of telegrams from my father an only message from home. It is not funny that the spirit should have moved us both to write to the other at about the same time? I am so glad that Mary is really improving. I wish she could have come with us, I am sure this fresh invigorating air would do much for her. It is hot in the sun at noontide but there is ever at some point a fresh sea breeze to temper it, while morning and evening are very cool. Alec is delighted and only wild to purchase our "bit land" we have only been here since Thursday night so have not had much chance to see anything. Alec thinks however that the neighborhood of this place Baddeck will not do and that we will go on Tuesday to Whycocomagh and explore there. We took four days to make the journey from Boston but it actually took us only two days and nights. We came by such easy stages and there was so much to see that we enjoyed ourselves very much. We find that you could get there all the way from Washington by meter. From Baltimore to Halifax, by Allan Line, from Halifax to port Hawksbury by International S.S. Company Line from Port Hawksbury to Baddeck by Steamer Marion. I should not think you would find such a journey hard although of course it would be a longer one than an all rail route. We shall not give up hope of seeing you until the end of the summer. My children are such splendid travellers never tired never cross even after a long hard days rail journey or what I think worse a seventeen mile drive in a sprind cart. We took such a drive Friday picining by the side of a pretty brook where the children went wading and where Elsie to her delight came to grief so that instead of a wade she had a bath. Of course we lug our puppy along with us everywhere and Alec's patience with all his following of wife children nurse 2 and two dogs butterfly net lunch

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basket etc., is something wonderful. I send enclosed a piece from a letter to Alec which he wants his father to examine and give him a character of the writer.

With much love to you and Mr. Bell and our cousins,

Affectionately Mabel G. Bell We want to know whether we can take the writer of this letter into our confidence. Is the writer true and honorable, loving or selfish.